

Transitions

Transitional words or phrases strengthen the logical organization of your essay by establishing a connection between different ideas.

Coordinate + Connect

Transitions illustrate how different concepts build from one another to support your thesis. Without transitions your paper can seem disjointed and will be difficult to understand. Transitions will help guide your reader through your argument by establishing why certain ideas make sense together. Exercise care when choosing transitions. You must consider the tone as well as the content of your essay to ensure that the transition is clear and precise.

Transitions are needed:

Between ideas

Between paragraphs

Examples

| Addition | Illustration | Time & Sequence | Contrast | Cause & Effect | Conclusions |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Also• As well as• Additionally• Furthermore• Likewise• Moreover | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For example• In particular• For instance• Specifically• In this case• To illustrate | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• During• While• After• Meanwhile• First, second• Next, then | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nevertheless• Despite• Yet• However• Although• On the contrary | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Therefore• So• As a result• Since• Because• Hence | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In conclusion• Finally• In summary• Lastly• To sum up• In closing |

Ask yourself ...

- ☒ Do you have transitions between ideas and paragraphs?
- ☒ Have you used the appropriate transition for the situation?
- ☒ Do your transitions create a logical connection between ideas that will help to support your thesis?